

Government Orders

coordinate with the other two offices to see that we have something that is convenient.

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops): Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the House leader for the government providing us with the agenda for the next few days. It is not clear to me yet about the additional hours today and additional hours again on Monday to allow all members a chance to participate in the debate. How long will those extended sittings be? He then made reference to a vote that may take place. Since the government has introduced the motion, I am assuming they are in support of it unambiguously.

My friend, the House leader for the Official Opposition, has indicated its intention to support the motion. We have indicated our intention to support the motion. Right now we presume it has unanimous support of the House of Commons. Normally we would have discussions as to the details. Are we just going to leave it open-ended in terms of how late we go in the evenings and when the vote may take place, if there is a need for it? It seems to be a rather awkward and peculiar way to arrange the business of the House.

Mr. Lewis: Mr. Speaker, discussions did take place among the House leaders *vis-à-vis* the extended hours and they are exactly as I related them on the floor of the House just a minute ago. The debate will continue tonight with 20 minute speeches until such time as the last person speaks. When the last member is finishing speaking we would simply adjourn until tomorrow. That same arrangement would take place on Monday.

Mr. Gauthier: Mr. Speaker, I apologize that this is a long debate and for negotiating on the floor of the House, but I have not given my consent to sit tonight at all. I do not want the minister to think for one moment that we want to extend or prolong this debate indefinitely. I have told you, Mr. Speaker, and I have told the members of this House and the people of Canada that we are supporting this resolution, but we would like to have some order. We are asking the minister what time does he have in mind for ending the debate so that people can be here to vote and approve this motion? That is what we are trying to do.

Mr. Riis: Mr. Speaker, my question to the government House leader is the same. He is indicating that the

government for some peculiar reason wishes to have a vote on something that we all unanimously support, but he does not say when the vote will take place. He leaves some open-ended arrangement. Could he be explicit as to when the vote will take place on this resolution?

Mr. Lewis: Mr. Speaker, I can be very explicit on when the vote will take place: with enough notice that every member will have an opportunity to be here and vote.

Mr. Gauthier: No way. That's nonsense.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): We have had enough negotiations. I think what the House leaders should do is have their negotiations and we should carry on with Orders of the Day.

I wish to inform the House that because of the ministerial statement, Government Orders will be extended 12 minutes, therefore, Private Members' Business will begin at 5.12 o'clock p.m.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

OFFICIAL LANGUAGES

LINGUISTIC DUALITY

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister) moved:

That this House reaffirm its commitment to support, protect and promote linguistic duality in Canada, as reflected by this House in the Constitution Amendment, 1987 and the Official Languages Act, 1988.

He said: Mr. Speaker, I rise on this, the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Canadian flag, the universal symbol of Canada, to speak of national unity and linguistic duality.

Just before I do, Mr. Speaker, I think it appropriate that all members of the House on an occasion like this recognize the presence and participation of those members who were here a quarter of a century ago and who participated in that historic debate. I think it would probably be appropriate as well if I took the liberty of paying a special tribute to the Prime Minister of Canada at that time, the Right Hon. Lester Pearson, who was responsible for managing the debate, conducting it and for the tremendous result that we see flying over the Parliament Buildings today.